

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 OES-07 NSC-05  
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 EUR-12  
/078 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:CCORDER;OASD/ISA/FMRA:JWOODS:DME  
APPROVED BY PM/ISO:GTCHURCHILL  
L/OES:T.LEITZELL  
AF/I:W.CARROLL

-----073398 172355Z /61

R 172004Z AUG 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
HQ USAF/XOXXI/

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, OZCR, SO, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PLANE REPORTEDLY GROUNDED IN MOGADISCIO

REFS: (A) STATE 185981, DTG 062057Z AUG 77  
(B) MOGADISCIO 1342, DTG 071105Z AUG 77

1. REF B REQUESTED FURTHER DETAILS OF THE C-141 CREW  
CONVERSATIONS WITH MOGADISCIO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL (ATC).  
THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE INCIDENT PROVIDED BY  
THE AIRCREW.

2. THE AIRCRAFT ENTERED THE MOGADISCIO FLIGHT INFORMATION  
REGION (FIR) ON A SOUTHBOUND COURSE ENROUTE TO MOMBASSA.  
WHILE IN THE FIR THE AIRCRAFT WAS AT ALL TIMES IN  
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INTERNATIONAL AIRSPACE, NEVER COMING CLOSER THAN 150 MILES  
OF THE SOMALI COAST. THE AIRCRAFT WAS UNABLE TO MAKE  
RADIO CONTACT WITH MOGADISCIO ATC FOR THE FIRST 80-90  
MINUTES OF FLIGHT. WHEN CONTACT WAS FINALLY ESTABLISHED:

A. ATC ASKED THE AIRCRAFT WHAT IT WAS DOING, AND THE  
PILOT RESPONDED THAT HE WAS A C-141 AIR EVACUATION FLIGHT

ENROUTE TO MOMBASSA.

B. HE WAS THEN ASKED WHAT KIND OF CARGO HE HAD ON BOARD. HE RESPONDED THAT HE HAD A MEDICAL CREW ON BOARD INCLUDING DOCTORS AND MEDICAL TECHNICIANS AND NO CARGO.

C. HE WAS TOLD TO LAND AT MOGADISCIO BECAUSE HE DID NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE. TO THIS HE RESPONDED THAT HE DID HAVE REQUIRED CLEARANCES THROUGH THE EMBASSY, BUT THAT HE WOULD CHECK WITH THE EMBASSY TO MAKE SURE.

3. AT THIS POINT, THE AIRCRAFT COMMANDER CONTACTED THE 21AF OPERATIONS CENTER BY HIGH FREQUENCY (HF) RADIO FOR GUIDANCE. HE WAS TOLD TO STALL THE ATC UNTIL HE EXITED THE FIR.

A. HE WAS ASKED BY ATC WHAT HIS DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE NUMBER WAS. HE RESPONDED WITH HIS MISSION NUMBER.

B. HE WAS TOLD THAT IT WAS NOT A CORRECT CLEARANCE NUMBER AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO LAND AT MOGADISCIO.

4. THE AIRCRAFT COMMANDER CONTINUED TO STALL THE ATC AUTHORITIES UNTIL HE EXITED THE FIR. THE RETURN FLIGHT WAS CONDUCTED IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO CIRCUMNAVIGATE THE MOGADISCIO FIR TO AVOID ANY REPERCUSSIONS.  
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5. THE ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE SOVIET AIRCRAFT AND THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED C-141 FLIGHT, IS THAT THE SOVIET AIRCRAFT PENETRATED SOMALI TERRITORIAL AIRSPACE AND LANDED, WHEREAS THE USAF C-141 REMAINED AT ALL TIMES IN INTERNATIONAL AIRSPACE AND THUS REQUIRED NO DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE FROM THE GSDR.

6. REQUEST EMBASSY'S OPINION WHETHER THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT'S INTENT IS TO ATTEMPT TO EXERCISE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE AIRSPACE WITHIN THEIR CLAIMED 200 MILE LIMIT, OR WAS THIS AN ISOLATED INCIDENT BASED ON MISUNDERSTANDING. SHOULD YOU DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH GSDR AUTHORITIES, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SOVIET AIRCRAFT INCIDENT AND THE C-141 FLIGHT, AND MAKE CERTAIN GSDR UNDERSTANDS THAT USG DOES NOT RECOGNIZE 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA CLAIMS OR ANY OTHER CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY OR CONTROL OF AIRSPACE BEYOND THREE NAUTICAL MILES. (US NOTE PROTESTING SOMALI LEGISLATION EXTENDING TERRITORIAL SEA TO 200 MILES WAS DELIVERED BY THE EMBASSY TO FONOFF ON DECEMBER 10, 1973. SEE CONFIDENTIAL MOGADISCIO 1790, R 101048Z DEC 73.) YOUR RESPONSE WILL BE USED BY USAF FOR PROMULGATION OF AN

APPROPRIATE ENTRY TO THE USAF FOREIGN CLEARANCE GUIDE  
CLASSIFIED SUPPLEMENT, IF REQUIRED.  
VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FLIGHT CLEARANCES, TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 17-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 185981, 77 MOGADISCIO 1342  
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**Review Event:**  
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**TAGS:** PBOR, OCLR, PLOS, SO, UR, US  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009